The Sierra Club
50 Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, California

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Yodeler

VOLUME XXII NO. 5
March, 1960

Pt. Reyes: The Foundation And The Future

Anyone inclined to belittle the efforts of the few Marin County people who first set up the Point Reyes National Seashore Foundation should have been at the meeting of their Board of Directors on February 17. The modest beginning is developing into a well organized group of enthusiasts. They know their county, their people, and they are heart and soul in the project.

Here are some of the items discussed. Most important: the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will hold a hearing in San Francisco, Thursday, April 14th, on the bills affecting Point Reyes which are now before Congress. (S 2428 introduced by Clair Engle in the Senate, H. R. 8358 by Clem Miller in the House.) The hearing will be conducted by Senator Frank Moss of Utah, who also presided at the recent hearing on the Cape Cod National Seashore Recreation Area.

This is a real opportunity to help the Point Reyes project. You can speak, representing yourself or any organization, for five minutes, bringing 25 copies of your spoken statement for distribution to press, Senators, and official records. You can write. Letters stating your views will go in the record and be read by dozens of

(Cont. Page 4)

Battle of Bull Creek Latest News

The tragedy of the Bull Creek Redwoods, as told by Peggy Wayburn on the center pages of the January Bulletin, was a shock to this reporter, who has always regarded that forest as one of the incomparable beauty spots of this world. Most of you have read the story by now, and the pictures with it speak for themselves. No better example of damage from improper logging could be found in California. While you were reading that article in the Bulletin, it rained in Humboldt County. Not a great storm, just the usual heavy spring rains which may be expected in any year. Here are the results, as reported in a

(Cont. Page 4)

Bryce Whitmore Exploration

Three wet-suited river explorers moved into Mendocino County February 21 to learn more about one of California's most beautiful rivers, the South Fork of the Eel.

The excitement began almost immediately as we began to unload the kayaks. Peter Whitney noticed that the roof of a house across the road was on fire. Maynard Munger and Bryce Whitmore hooked up a garden hose and started fighting the fire while Pete made sure no one was inside.

The fire gained fast, and all we could do was save some clothing and furniture. A strong wind made the flames intense, and in less than two hours all that remained of the cottage was smoking ashes and the wood stove whose defective flue had started the whole thing.

We were in the mood for clear cool river water now, so we paddled the kayaks down about 8 miles of the Eel along Highway 101. The water and scenery were excellent, and the run was made without incident except when Pete tried to quarter past a half-submerged log that blocked our right of way. He miscalculated his angle in the current and upset, and some near-sighted steelhead now has a pair of eyeglasses.

If you have complained about crowded conditions in state parks, try Northern California in February with temperatures

(Cont. Page 6)

HOOD PEAK HIKE

The joint hike of the San Francisco Bay and Redwood Chapters to the summit of Hood Peak on February 13 had many high points, though the highest was the peak itself. The summit, which towers to an altitude of 2,730 feet overlooking the storied Valley of the Moon, is actually higher than Mount Tamalpais, though it is less well known.

Other high points were the weather, which was clear, sunny and warm, the superb view, and an opportunity to see what is said to be the largest madrona tree in the world. At least, the giant with a trunk 13 feet in circumference will be considered the largest until some one comes forth with a larger one. Panoramic views of the hills, valleys and towns, with glimpses of snow caps to the North and San Francisco Bay to the South, rewarded the climbers.

Since thick, bristly chaparral discouraged lingering at the summit, hikers sought a rock outcropping which provided seats that were smooth if not soft, and which even permitted napping in strange and rather precarious positions. Leader Bob Stephens of Sebastopol and a group of rock climbers couldn't overlook a chance to do some rope work on the rock cliffs.

The hikers descended by a different route only to find a swift stream running over the roadbed between them and the waiting shuttle cars. Undaunted, they plunged in, disregarding wet boots, or doffed footgear and waded across.

The fifty-nine Sierra clubbers and guests who enjoyed the outing ranged in age from a boy of three years to veteran hikers of more than three score years, whose agility and youthful spirits belied the silver in their hair. —A.G.

Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Classified advertising will be charged for at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line.

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Bruce Grant — Walter Oppenheimer
Diana Salo — Helen Sharsmith
Arnold Stamps — Lyn Wright

NEXT DEADLINE: March 28

VOLUME XXII NO. 5 March 1960

EDITORIAL

This is our first edition to be published under the new policy making the Yodeler an official Chapter publication freely circulated to all the membership. As a result, many of you will be seeing us for the first time in many issues. For others, this will be the first encounter ever. Well then, greetings!

The Executive Committee's decision, taken in January, has been swiftly translated into action in March because some advertising was immediately offered, and the technical difficulties were not insurmountable. Thus we are distributing 6,000 copies of the Yodeler to all Bay Chapter members instead of 1,100 copies to a limited subscription list.

The Yodeler will play a new role, and in more ways than one, as a result of this change. Whereas it formerly was the journal of the Chapter's hard-core activists, it now will, we hope, become the means of interesting more of the "summer soldiers" in our weekend activities which, as the Sierra Club divides these matters, fall under the Chapter's jurisdiction.

We could have wished that the change might have been celebrated with an appropriate fanfare—a telegram from the White House, a page of congratulations from dignitaries, or at least a drastic change in makeup that would punctuate our growth. The Yodeler is going to be bigger: somehow or other, no doubt, it should suddenly and obviously be reborn better as well.

But the change was made too swiftly for that. The new features which you have every right to expect will have to evolve in the next few issues. The first of them will be a regular Schedule supplement, of which more below. The general intent is to make The Yodeler a means of communication for the whole Bay Chapter which, as the senior Chapter in the Sierra Club, may rightly claim to set the pace and the tone for a famous organization which some believe has gone too high into the empyrean to remember the everyday recreational needs of its members.

(Continued)

The Yodeler will become a monthly instead of a fortnightly, beginning with this issue. The reason for this decision was to cut down the burden the Chapter would have to carry until the paper became self-sustaining. But it will also give the staff time to write and edit more carefully. A monthly differs in quality as well as quantity from a fortnightly; the interval is one that corresponds to the usual cycle of Club committee meetings and therefore is the natural reporting period.

If The Yodeler is to be rejuvenated in its new condition, of course the life-giving sap will have to arise from you, the members. From time to time, you will have seen desperate little paragraphs here appealing for volunteers to help in this or that activity required in the production of a newspaper—editorial work, typing, addressing, mailing, and the like. It is a curious thing about all collective human activities: they all begin in general appeals for help from Everyman, but they all result in the work being done by a little coterie of dedicated nuts.

Now, why is this? Mankind is not actually as afraid of work as all that. The truth, it appears to us, is twofold: most people are afraid of thrusting themselves forward; most people are terrified of being bored. We cannot guarantee that those who do overcome one of those fears will escape the other. But we do argue that those who offer to help write, publish or mail the Yodeler will be engaging themselves in a living enterprise. Whether it is worth missing an evening before the TV screen and the hire of a sitter, will have to be your own decision.

Verbum sap.: The editorial work nights are the second and fourth Mondays of the month – most seriously needed are those with writing experience and the knack of drawing out their fellow human beings in telephone interviews. We also need photographs and the captions that may make them newsworthy.

We also need trip leaders to send in regular schedule-emendations, beginning with the next issue, when the new austerity policy for Schedule trip descriptions will have gone into effect. For the immediate future, submissions should follow the style of the Schedule in its old, carefree format. In general, the rule should be: "If your trip was inadequately or incorrectly reported in the Schedule, give corrected or supplementary details in the Yodeler for the month of the trip."

(Continued)

One change from past practice will be that the Yodeler will be published right through the summer vacation season, when trips are burgeoning. We believe that this will fill an important need for those who have committed themselves to weekend plans but have not in the past been given up-to-date revisions.

The Yodeler begins its new status with a change of editors. Erwin Blodgett, who for several years has ably and devotedly seen copy to press in place of enjoying Sierra Club trips, has recently achieved a work schedule that gives him weekends off. But it also forbids his giving his evenings to Yodeler affairs.

Peter D. Whitney, who succeeds Erwin, is a River Touring Section hand with a background in journalism and in Sierra mountaineering.

MANAGER'S NOTES

This enlarged YODELER, with the beautiful full page ad by the Hatch River Expeditions, is only the beginning, folks, only the beginning!

Manager Lou Elliott has built up a good advertising and advisory team (with the help of a congenial get-together at a colorful German restaurant before each meeting) and is eager to add to the group.

To those who would like to become successful advertising executives: get your start on the YODELER by contacting Lou at OLympic 5-3801 evenings. To those who have businesses of their own or have friends who have businesses: start along the path to financial titanism (if there's no such word, it still sounds good!) by advertising in the YODELER.

To those who also serve by only standing and waiting: put greater purpose into your service by standing and waiting with coin in hand at the cash registers of YODELER advertisers.

Charter members of Yodeler Advertising Associates are Dirk Breymann, Wes Bunnelle, Galena Dougherty, Nina Eloesser, Bruce Grant, Walt Oppenheimer, Lloyd Reed, Diana Salo, Helen Sharsmith, Arnold Stamps and Lyn Wright. The charter is still open. —A.R.

MOUNTAIN PLAY

For the first time in its history, this year's play will be presented two Sundays, May 15 and 22, in world-famous, dramatically situated, open-air Cushing Memorial Amphitheatre on Mount Tamalpais. Now electronic sound equipment has been designed and constructed for the mountainside, and parking problems will be eased with the new scheduling of the performance.

Shore, Shock & Tides

"Life Along the Seashore" can be a fascinating hobby according to Dr. Joel W. Hedgepeth in a talk to the well-attended Natural Science Section on Friday evening, Feb. 12th in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland. Dr. Hedgepeth is well known for his revision of "Between Pacific Tides" (a book we heartily recommend for tidepool addicts). Presently he is writing a guidebook on the shores of San Francisco Bay which should prove most useful.

Sandy beaches, mudflats, rocks and ledges support vast colonies of sea life arranged in zonal distribution. Wave shock and tidal levels are important factors in the determination of life zones. The tremendous width and depth of the Pacific Ocean produces plentiful food supply for the varied and prolific life found along the shore.

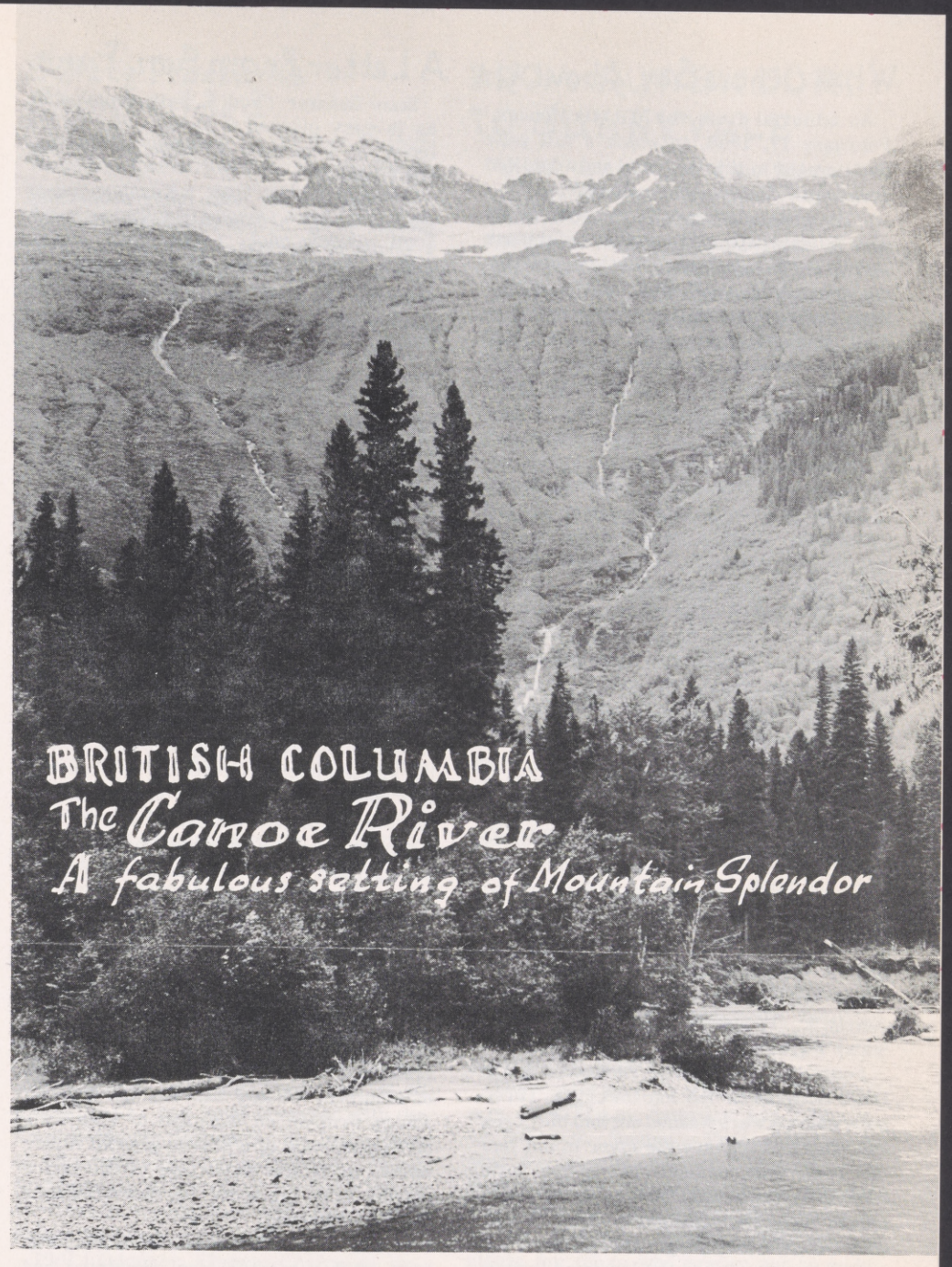
One unexplained phenomenon is the disappearance of certain forms of sea life from their usual habitat. This shifting pattern is one of the many things being investigated by students and teachers who work with Dr. Hedgepeth, Director of the Pacific Marine Station at Dillon Beach. That patterns of sea life come and go has been evidenced by the recent appearance of many white sharks along the shore. Dramatically illustrated by slides photographed in Tomales Bay was the appearance of a barnacle-encrusted gray whale.

The controversy between physicists and biologists over the possible menace to sea life by radioactive wastes now being dumped into the ocean was offered some consolation in this presently unresolved debate. Scientists now believe they have sufficient proof that it requires at least five thousand years for water from the deepest Pacific to reach the surface.

More immediate concern is needed for the careless disturbance of sealife zones along our shores. Scripps Institute of Oceanography still has a small preserve, parts of Dillon Beach are relatively safe, Point Lobos is in some measure protected. The splendid tidepools of Bodega Head have already been lost to power development. It is fervently hoped that when the Point Reyes National Seashore Recreation Area is established, the northern tip of Tomales Point will be protected as a primitive beach.

We cannot all enjoy the benefits of marine laboratory equipment nor would we have the thirst for knowledge to use it but we can become waders and observers of the mysterious seashores IF we learn to explore carefully and wisely. Each stone not replaced may well become the gravestone of colonies of life. Mudflats, beaches, rocks and pools teem with life—let us enjoy it, never destroy it.

—Mary H. Rihn



The Sierra Club's rivermen are going farther afield than ever before this summer, Aug. 23-30, to the British Columbia wilderness.

This trip is especially aimed at the paddle-it-yourselfers. Signup is in two categories: 25 passengers on the rafts, 25 persons bringing their own kayaks or canoes. This arrangement should enable boaters with extra energy to spend more time exploring side streams and to enjoy greater freedom of movement. It will be possible to rent canoes by prearrangement with the leader.

The Canoe River flows some eighty miles southward from the magnificent Premier Group in Wells-Gray Park, to the "big bend" of the mighty Columbia, in eastern British Columbia.

It is a virgin, unexploited stream in a grand glacial valley that is surrounded by the Hamber and the Monashee ranges, two of the most beautiful in the world. Many of their peaks tower more than a mile and a half above the valley.

No valley so near our latitudes or so accessible that I know of has remained so completely remote. The only access and exit are by water. Man is still only a visitor: there are no trails, cabins, or campsites. Only about a dozen white men visit it annually to trap or to survey.

The forests of cedar, spruce and pine are interrupted only by the emerald-green waters of the river and the rock pinnacles around the valley. Hardly a mile passes before another trout-laden mountain stream cascades into the spacious meadows.

Those interested are encouraged to bring their own kayaks, foldboats or canoes. Expert instruction will be available. The river is of moderate difficulty, allowing the paddler time to relax and to enjoy the beautiful waterways.

—Maynard Munger

What Others Say About Us

An editorial from the Wichita Beacon, February 19, 1960, in which a full page was devoted to this editorial and a detailed review of "The American Earth".

"The great challenge to America is not what Russia will do, but what Americans will do for themselves. Will they establish the unexcelled civilization that is within their knowledge and power? Or will they drift down the easy road to decadence?

"The challenge to America is summed up in the word 'conservation'. Would there were a better word, one with more challenge and poetry in it. 'Conservation' has a stodgy sound. One thinks of conservatives or of a pattern for plowing fields.

"Actually, conservation is dynamic and ambitious. It is a means of increasing wealth and prosperity. It is essential to living happily and well.

"...The Sierra Club, whose magnificent book is reviewed on this page, devotes itself largely to defending America's wilderness from those who would loot and destroy it. And yet, as their book makes clear, that is only part of the total problem."

This is only one of the splendid notices of "The American Earth" coming in from all over the country, often accompanied by reviews which show that the book has made its point.

—C.M.C.

Bull Creek (continued)

letter written on February 15 by Mr. James P. Tryner, Superintendent of the State Parks in the Redwood District:

Fourteen more large redwoods and a large Douglas fir fell into the creek. Three huge stumps were washed out into the creek bed where they force the river to cut into the bank still further. Major log jams developed which will cause severe erosion unless they are removed at once. It will cost $15,000 just to get the fallen trees out of the creek and the log jams broken up.

There is much more in Mr. Tryner's letter, describing their problems and their hopes for salvage of this watershed. In a future Yodeler we shall try to give more details, perhaps a report of a visit to the Bull Creek grove. —C.M.C.

A Letter From Sen. Farr

State Senator Fred S. Farr writes that he is very pleased to have us reprint his letter of February 9, 1960, on the Big Sur Highway:

"Thank you for your letter concerning threats to the scenic beauties of Highway 1 south of Carmel. Such threats have kept many of us very busy of late; but I think we can safely say that the danger of undesirable changes in the roadway and bridges has been fended off, if not permanently allayed.

"The Division of Highways did plan replacement of three bridges of this stretch, two with fill and culverts. Two of the bridges are still under study and one of the proposed culverts and fills, namely at Dolan Creek, will be eliminated in favor of a new bridge when the present wooden bridge must be replaced. Highway One itself has been deleted from the State Master Plan of Freeways. Governor Brown has publicly endorsed my proposal to create a special category of California Scenic Highways which would be exempt from the usual development as high-speed traffic arteries. Scenic highways should be given special treatment to preserve and enhance their scenic qualities above all other considerations. I expect that Highway One will this year be used as a pilot project in working out the necessary legislation for introduction in 1961.

"At present, our primary effort here is directed toward preventing the growth of unsightly projects along lands adjacent to the road, which would do even greater damage to the scenery and eventually force widening of the road to handle increased traffic. The Board of Supervisors of Monterey County has enacted interim zoning ordinances designed to give time for preparation of a master plan for future development and protection of the entire coastal area from the Carmel Highlands to the county line.

"It is hoped that Monterey County will have such a master plan completed and accepted within the next six months.

"Our worries will not be over until we have a definitive master plan in effect and the road itself officially designated as a scenic highway; and even then we will need a conscientious citizens' group to keep working with appropriate agencies."

Pt. Reyes (continued)

Senators and Congressmen who are trying to learn something about it before they vote. In either case, write to Mr. Richard Callaghan, Staff Director, Com. on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. Senate, 3108 Senate Office Bldg., Washington 25, D.C. Requests to speak should go at once, letters for the record may go at any time up to and probably beyond the hearing date. You can also help by being present at the hearing, which will probably be held in the Nourse Auditorium (old High School of Commerce). Nothing impresses a Senator more than Standing Room Only at a hearing. Mark the date, April 14.

Another important date for the Foundation is March 11, annual dinner of the Marin Conservation League. Guests at the dinner will be the State Director of Natural Resources, Mr. Dewitt Nelson, and Mr. Charles DeTurk, Chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks. The Point Reyes film will be shown by Mrs. Eric Reynolds.

The Foundation also discussed the logging on Inverness Ridge, that creeping cancer which is eating up 500 acres of forest a year. Cutting has now been halted by the State Department of Forestry because the lumber company had begun clear cutting, to give itself an extra margin of profit, whereas its contract called for selective cutting. The mill is still operating on stock piles of lumber, so cutting may be resumed any time a settlement is made. How to save the forest is a problem. Purchase of easements or development rights would cost nearly as much as the land itself. Exchange of lands under the Taylor Grazing Act seems a feasible plan, and this is being explored. The coastal ranchers, stronghold of opposition, are also a challenge. A campaign of personal contacts might improve their understanding of the project. The National Park Service has definitely recommended a "lease-back" arrangement for ranchers anxious to keep their lands intact. Congressman Clem Miller was quoted as saying, "If there is a Park lease-back provision it will save dairying at Point Reyes."

Officers of the Foundation were elected at this meeting. Dr. Joel Gustafson is now President. Committees were set up to concentrate on various aspects of the project. Greatest need of the Foundation now is increased membership, which means both wider influence and more money to work with.

Dues are now $3.00 yearly for regular members, with the hope that many will choose the sustaining membership at $8.00, or $15.00 and $25.00 as contributor or sponsor. If you are interested in Point Reyes, no matter where you live you can share in the work by joining the Foundation. Just clip the entry blank in this Yodeler and send it with your check to Point Reyes Foundation, Box 366, Kentfield, California. —C.M.C.

Point Reyes National Seashore Foundation

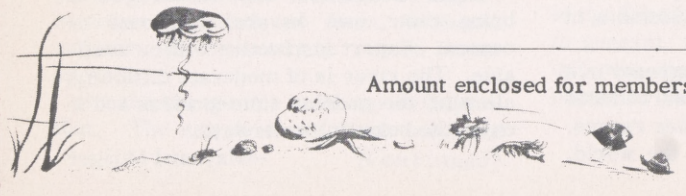
Yes, I am interested in furthering the objectives of this Foundation.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Amount enclosed for membership _____



An Announcement From Our Schedule Editor

TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN and other Interested Sierra Club Members

The Deadline for copy for Schedule No. 148 for Summer, 1960 is THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1960. Please have all copy at my home by that date. (6466 Pinehaven Road, Oakland 11.)

We have been asked to shorten trip write-ups, etc., as the costs of printing our Schedule are more than we can afford. We will try to limit the size to 48 pages, as it was a few years ago, or smaller if possible. We will limit write-ups and notices to four lines and a date line, and will edit copy when necessary to fit the space.

A Monthly Yodeler to all Chapter Members—as planned, will carry the longer, descriptive stories about trips, events, parties and dinners. Schedule will carry necessary time, place, leaders and bus schedules (if any), and all the color that can be fitted into a few words. Schedule write-ups still should be interesting, but short. The Club sends these out to interested non-members, and expects us to publish an attractive, well-written booklet.

PLEASE FOLLOW STYLE

a. Typewriter margins at 10 and 62.

b. Copy DOUBLE SPACED on 8 1/2 x 11 paper.

c. One item to the page--Date line, FOUR LINES OF COPY, giving event, location, leaders. We'll provide the line saying "Details in Yodeler" at various spots in the book.

d. Underscore italics.

e. Leaders' names in ALL CAPS.

f. Submit one copy—keep a longer, descriptive story for the Yodeler, if you wish your trip further advertised.

If you have any questions, call me at OLympic 5-3652.

Thank you for your co-operation,

HASSE BUNNELLE, Editor

TRIP LEADER MOVES

Don't dare read this unless you have your current Club schedule under your nose:

Phyllis Lindley, co-leader of the snowshoe camping venture March 26-27, has moved. Her new address is 2430 Prospect Street, Apt. 108, Berkeley 4, and her new telephone number is THornwall 8-6821.

SCOTTISH TARTAN 100% WOOL SHIRT
This smart and comfortable shirt will be a colorful conversation piece through years of summer and winter outings. Imported in your name tartan by the HIGHLANDER. For full information write % the Yodeler or phone evenings OLympic 3-1087.

Safety Programs Commended

Monday, February 8, the Bay Chapter Executive Committee commended club activity groups for their safety programs. Among chairmen present were Doug Peterson, Knapsacking; John Shonle, Rock Climbing; Neil Anderson, Skiing. Other activities represented were Clair Tappaan Lodge by Kay Homsey; Hiking, Francis Walcott; River Touring, Glenn Gaumer; Car Camping, Margeret Gwinn.

Doug Peterson is expanding rock-climbing activities to include cross-country back packing over difficult terrain, with summer and winter mountaineering on rock, snow and ice. Alerted by reports of mountaineering accidents, he feels intensive training for leaders is mandatory in view of the club's expanding schedule of climbs and excursions. Rock-climbing trips are being graded from trail-walking through the most technical mountaineering. Leaders are assigned according to training and experience. Doug has also conducted annual public classes in knapsacking techniques.

Carl Weisner ('59 Rock Climbing Section chairman, present Rescue chairman), working with Fran Walcott and Hazel Eggett, has strengthened the rapport between Rock Climbing and Hiking people by teaching hikers how climbers "do dangerous things safely." He also has been active in organizing and training an effective Mountain Rescue group.

Francis Walcott and Hazel Eggett have been implementing chairman Bob Boelen's program to revitalize the Hiking Section. They have instituted longer, more interesting walks, including "bashers" of 20 and 30 miles and have arranged with the Rock Climbing Section for the instruction of hikers in climbing techniques. Hazel faithfully leads Saturday trips and is known for introducing children to the Sierra Club by her Easter Egg hunts.

Phil Faulconer, Chapter Chairman, urges all members, especially activities officers, to attend meetings of the Executive Committee, the second Monday of each month at the Club office, San Francisco.

—PWF

FROM RUWENZORI TO SUNNYVALE

In the last 59 years the Sierra Club has sponsored summer trips to wilderness lands from Tuolumne Meadows to the Ruwenzori Range, Uganda, scene of next July's African expedition. This major outing program is the theme of the Sierra Club's biennial Information and Education Conference at Jarvis Bishop School, Sunnyvale, April 2 and 3.

Executive Director Dave Brower will present the opening speech on the historic purposes and accomplishments of the club outings and the prospects for new kinds of trips. The organization of local and summer outings, responsibilities of leaders, problems of recreation impact on fragile wilderness, desirability of conservation education during club hikes, and the threatened over-use of the club's Tuolumne Meadows campground are among the panel topics.

Conference Chairman Warren Lemmon announced that Walter Ward's movie on Sierra Club activities and the Pt. Reyes film would be main features of the weekend.

Lemmon asks club leaders and hike participants from all the chapters and youth and adult members of YMCA, Scout, and other hiking groups to share their experiences during question-and-answer periods and at informal gatherings.

The Loma Prieta Chapter has invited conference visitors to attend a dinner at Compton's Cafeteria, Sunnyvale, Saturday night at 6:30, to be followed by an 8:00 p.m. program on Alaska.

The conference is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, and 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Transportation is provided from the train and airport to the Bishop school, Lemmon said. Accomodations will be available in the homes of Sierra Clubbers Friday and Saturday nights for those who prefer not to make other arrangements. Hospitality chairman is Al Draper, 100 Hilltop Drive, Redwood City.

OUTINGS CONFERENCE RESERVATION

To: Al Draper, 100 Hilltop Drive, Redwood City, Calif.

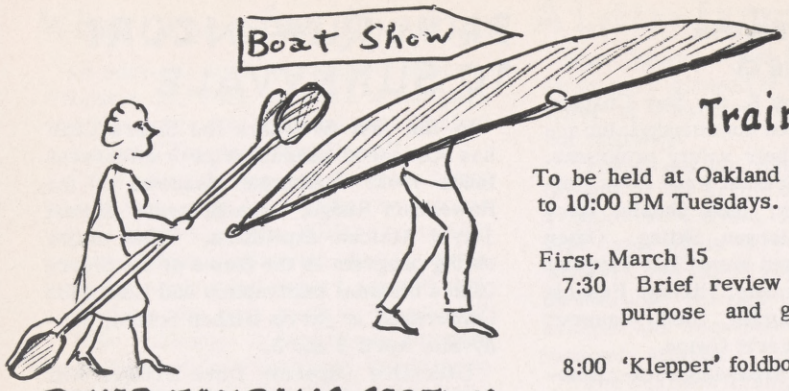
I plan to attend the Sierra Club Conference on Outings scheduled for Sat. & Sun. Apr. 2-3, at the Jarvis Bishop Elementary School, Sunnvale & Maude Sts., Sunnyvale. My party will consist of the names appearing on this form. Their Chapter or affiliation is also shown. The price of 2 box lunches for the 2-day conference will be $2.00 per person and I enclose $_____ to reserve lunches for my group of _____ people. I further understand that coffee or milk will be extra. (Note: Checks should be made payable to Loma Prieta Chapter.)

Chapter or Affiliation

Name _____

_____

_____



RIVER TOURING SECTION

The River Touring Section will welcome everyone to attend the Boat Show on March 8th at 8:00 o'clock at the old Lake Merritt Canoe House on Oak Street near 14th in Oakland. Paddle craft and equipment will be on display and there will be a movie of the section's trips on California rivers.

Everyone is also invited to spend the afternoon of March 13 at Aquatic Park at the foot of Larkin Street in San Francisco trying out kayaks, learning a few essentials of the sport, or just picknicking and watching the fun.

Beginning boaters and others who may wish to take weekend trips with the section in the coming year are urged to come to the events mentioned above, and more especially to the training sessions described below. You'll find them interesting and you'll enjoy your trips more if you have an adequate background of preparation.

This year it will be necessary to pass an elementary test including swimming, paddling on flat water, and knowledge of equipment before taking your first downriver trip.

If you are interested in 'white water', an intermediate test will check your knowledge and proficiency before you face your first rapids.

So come to the training sessions. Intermediate boaters are also urged to attend, and even advanced people may come for a refresher course.

ADVERTISEMT

FOR SALE - Single Hammer Foldboat - Good condition - with spray sheet and surfing bow piece. Don Golden, 236-41st street, Oakland, OL 3-6617.

SKI BOOTS, woman's size 8B, worn two weekends, call HI 4-8270.

FOR SALE: Rigid kayak, excellent condition - very stable, good beginning white water boat. Spray cover - paddle included. $45. TH 5-5945 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. May be seen at R.T.S. boat show March 8.

Program - Training Sessions

To be held at Oakland YMCA from 7:30 to 10:00 PM Tuesdays.

First, March 15

7:30 Brief review of boat types and purpose and goal of our club — Lou Elliott

8:00 'Klepper' foldboat movie — Bruce Grant

8:45 Elementary navigation — Glenn Gaumer

9:15 Boating and camping essentials — Barbara Tilden

Second, March 22

7:30 Elementary paddle technique — Peter Whitney

8:00 Movie — Bryce Whitmore

8:30 Safety — Elsa Bailey

9:15 Social aspects of outings — Gordon Bermak

March 27 John Bombay will lead beginner's trip on Steamboat Slough on the Sacramento. Come try out various boats, practice your paddling and have a family picnic.

Third, March 29

7:30 Advanced navigation and hydraulics — Bryce Whitmore

8:15 Movie — Bryce Whitmore

8:45 Advanced paddle technique — Red Cockerline

9:15 Eskimo roll and AWWA — Bruce Grant

Date - Junior Snow Trip

Phil Faulconer will lead a combined snowshoe and ski trip for Sierra Club Juniors to the Bradley Hut near Squaw Valley on March 19 and 20. Simple warm clothing and a minimum of equipment are required. Probable cost $7.00 including transportation. Telephone Phil at TH 5-6840 or Betty Ann Michener, TH 3-6866.

Exploration (continued)

in the low 20's at night. We had Edward Hickey State Park all to ourselves that night.

On Monday, in George Washington's honor, we decided to run the upper canyon from Branscomb and Admiral Standley State Park to the fish hatchery on Cedar Creek. It looked like 16 miles, with no roads. The river here is far from the Redwood Highway and surrounded by mountains up to 3,000 feet.

We left the Peugeot (car) with Charlie Brown (dog) on guard at the hatchery takeout point. Pete drove us to the put-in. Pete thought the run might take the better part of the day (understatement of the year!) and as he was expected home early, he did some fishing and left for Berkeley.

(Cont. next col.)

The following is a log kept by Bryce and Maynard through the canyon:

Feb. 22 '60, 11:30 A.M. Put in about 3 miles north of Branscomb (private land). Small easy stream with some clay bank falls. Not enough water to run.

12:30 P.M. After first hour we arrive at Elder Creek and talk to man cutting brush. He advises we have a long way to go, and Ten-Mile Creek is about 1 1/2 miles ahead.

2:30 P.M. Arrive at Ten-Mile Creek. Longest 1 1/2 miles we have ever seen. Large dangerous rapid where Ten-Mile joins in; volume of water seems to have doubled. We are now in deep rocky canyon. Rapids are full of huge boulders and usually end with a severe drop or fall. We run as deep into rapid as seems safe, then portage the drop.

Maynard's boat jams against rocks at bottom of a rapid. Water fills it but he manages to pry it off before it breaks up.

Bryce's boat has large hole in stern from drop over falls. Requires tape repair about every hour; no time for permanent fiberglass repair.

4:30 P.M. It is now apparent we may not be able to complete the run before dark, but we are still trying. We run very hard, and we portage quickly, without helping one another. It's like a downriver race, but on a very strange course.

The rapids and canyon continue until dark. The river course is very beautiful, with milky green water, rocky cliffs covered with moss, many small waterfalls dropping over the cliffs into the river, occasional deer, many ducks and woodpeckers, and the high giant redwoods.

The rapids that are runnable are excellent Class IV. Draw-stroke essential because water is too strong for back-paddling.

6:30 P.M. It is now too dark to go on. We set up camp for the night after a hike downstream with flashlight proves that the canyon continues for some distance.

It's a cold night (24 deg. F.)

Tuesday, February 23: This morning we launch and paddle on after the sun burns off the fog. About a 2-mile run to the end of the canyon, and about four miles more to the car.

Noon: We reach the Peugeot just in time to stop a search party being planned by Pete and our Berkeley friends. Pete manages to keep the "I-told-you-so" out of his voice on the telephone. He reached us by calling the hatchery.

Charlie Brown has a few choice words to say about the 30 hours he has spent in the car. But he is soon his happy self again. (The answer to your question is "No, he didn't.")

We all agree that the run must be made again, but with more time to explore and to take pictures, and without the enforced overnight stay.

—Bryce Whitmore

Conservation Hike Mar. 27

Recently, a four-hundred acre park, proposed for East Oakland by the City Planning Commission, was eliminated for lack of support. The March 27 hike will cover the area of the proposed - but rejected - park, and will start from Leona Park, above Mills College, in East Oakland. More Bay Area residents, and Oaklanders in particular, should become aware of the effort required by people who appreciate natural landscape and want to keep outdoor beauty in the cities they must live in. Larry Williams, trip leader, will explain some aspects of local conservation, with particular regard to the city park proposal.

This will be a leisurely hike. Young and old are welcome. From San Francisco, take the 8:20 "N" bus to MacArthur and 35th Avenue. There, at 8:50, catch the #15 bus. Get off at Leona Park. There is room to park for those who drive. The walk will start at about 9:30 and will cover from 3 to 5 miles. Bring water with your lunch. We will adjourn in the early afternoon.

Calling All Vagabonds

Breathtaking ski-jumps with and without skis, daredevil rope tricks where losing the rope would mean losing life. . .and on the other end of the thrill spectrum a river raft voyage —

All these adventures and more are depicted in the film "Vagabonds of the Mountains," which will be shown under joint Sierra Club and Town Hall auspices Saturday, March 26, at the Nourse Auditorium, Hayes Street at Van Ness Avenue, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets will be $2.20, $2.00, and $1.80, mentioned in that order because the more expensive tickets you buy, the more money the Club makes. Please mail your check, payable to TOWN HALL FORUM, not to Sierra Club, to: Town Hall Forum, Spaulding Hotel, 240 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco 2. State on your order that you a Sierra Club member. No tickets will be mailed without a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The film was narrated and filmed by Hans Gmoser, Austrian-born mountain climber and skier who now teaches and guides climbers and skiers among Canadian peaks. Further detail is provided in the folder enclosed with this YODELER.

—A.R.

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CATARACT GULCH HIKE

The members of the Sierra Club who did not go on the Cataract Gulch trip on February 21, 1960, missed a very good one. The weather was clear, the country looked beautiful and clean from the rain we had been having, and there was plenty of water in the streams.

Fifty-five persons, among them many beginners, came out to hike with us. One was a six year old boy, who made it very nicely.

The hike left Pan Toll around 9:30 a.m. and arrived in Fairfax around 3:15 p.m., in time to catch the 3:31 bus back to San Francisco. We covered about 12 miles of up-and-down trails which led us through Laurel Dell, down Cataract Canyon, and the Helen Markt Trail. We lunched in Swede George Gulch at about 11:30 and were on our way again in an hour.

Alpine Lake was still not as high as it should be, but it was a lot fuller than when I scouted the trip: the rains have helped a lot. Bon Tempe Lake was almost up to the top, which is nice, but this is because they are pumping water up from Alpine Lake.

I hope everyone enjoyed himself as I did leading the trip through the beautiful back country that we have close to us. We are luckier than many of the Sierra Club Chapters which have to drive so far to get out of the cities and towns.

See you all soon, I hope,

Jack Hathaway

Buying a Sleeping Bag? HEAR THIS!

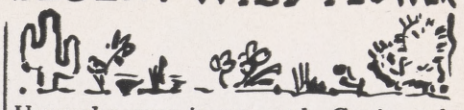
Two seminars of special interest to knapsackers and mountaineers will be offered in March by the Knapsacking Committee. On March 8, a panel of experienced knapsackers will discuss the merits of various pack frames, sleeping bags, boots and other gear essential to enjoyable mountain travel. There will be an extensive display, and the audience will be encouraged to ask advice on the selection of equipment. Foreign and domestic catalogs will be available.

On March 15, the discussion will center around mountaineering food and the perplexing problem of the light pack versus the heavy appetite. Seasoned back packers will offer advice on the selection, packaging and preparation of nourishing and tasty lightweight foods. Mountain stoves and cooking kits will be displayed.

Past experience has shown that these discussions are of great help to those who are buying a mountain kit and are a bit perplexed by the multiplicity of gear now on the market. Chairman Doug Peterson cordially invites your attendance.

Place of meetings will be the Red Cross Building, 1625 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, 4 floor; time will be 7:30 p.m.

DESERT WILD FLOWERS



Unusual season is expected. Get in on the show as an extra dividend, visiting Havasu Canyon and Chiricahua Mts. this spring. For details — JOE WAMPLER, Box 45, Berkeley 1, Calif.

EAST BAY DINNER

When? Wednesday, March 9. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Program to follow.

Where: Willard Junior High School, Telegraph at Ward Street, Berkeley.

Why? Wildflowers of California Fly by Charles Weber. Commentary by John Thomas Howell of the California Academy of Science.

How? Make reservations with Margaret Gwinn before 10 p.m. March 7, TH 1-2442.

WEST POINT CLUB HOSTESS SCHEDULE FOR MARCH - APRIL 1960

March 5-6	Gerry Hunter ED 2-3948 Evenings
*March 12-13	Grace & Alan Woodward GR 4-2500 Any Time
March 19-20	Alice Tesch PR 5-7536 Evenings
*March 26-27	Lupe & Louis Rioseco WA 1-2898 Any Time
April 2-3	Anna Hoen GR 4-2500 Any Time
*April 9 10	Grace & Alan Woodward GR 4-2500 Any Time
April 16-17	Portia & Frank Bradley GR 4-2500 Any Time
*April 23-24	Beth & Jim MacBridge MO 4-2919 Evenings

*CENTRAL COMMISSARY. Cancellation of reservations must be made by Thursday or party must pay for weekend.

N. S. FIELD TRIP

A new trip, not listed in the Schedule: March 26: Natural Science Field Trip. Meet Mountain Home, 9:30, for some of the early spring wild flowers. Leader: MALCOLM SMITH. (Further details will be given at the regular monthly meeting, March 18.)

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